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flowers, their connection with fairies and witches, proverbs based upon them, their medicinal virtues according to the old-time herbalists, their use in heraldry, their names, etc. It is written, perhaps unavoidably, in a somewhat rambling style. The materials were in part gathered by the author directly from the mouths of English peasants; but there is also liberal citation of prose and verse from other sources. The book contains besides bibliographical notes, a catalogue of more than 160 authors who have dealt with these subjects more or less directly.

The *Correspondenz-Blatt* of the Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, etc., announces the formation in February of this year, of a Russian Anthropological Society, with its seat at the Imperial University of St. Petersburg. Its president is Dr. A. A. Jostrantzeff, Professor of Geology in the University; its vice-president and secretary are Dr. A. J. Tarantzeff and Dr. S. N. Danillo, both of the Imperial Academy of Military Medicine.

The same journal notices the first doctorate conferred by a German university on a candidate who offered modern anthropology as his principal subject. It was granted *summa cum laude* by the University of Munich to G. Buschau, M. D. The title of his dissertation was: "Prähistorische Gewebe und Gespinnste; ein Beitrag zur Kulturgeschichte."

A prime object of the American Folk-lore Society, organized early in this year, is the support of a journal that shall put in available and permanent form the fast disappearing remnants of native and transplanted American folk-lore, and afford opportunity for special studies on these and connected topics. The first number of the new journal, April-June, contains articles on the Diffusion of Popular Tales, by T. F. Crane; Myths of Voodoo Worship and Child Sacrifice in Hayti, W. W. Newell; Counting-out Rhymes, H. Carrington Bolton; Lanapé Conversations, D. G. Brinton; Onondaga Tales, W. M. Beauchamp; On certain Songs and Dances of the Kwakiutl of Brit. Col. (with music), F. Boaz; Songs of the Hecucka Society (with music), and Stories from several Indian Tribes, by J. Owen Dorsey; and in addition bibliographical and miscellaneous notes.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

*Hygiene of Reflex Action.* HENRY LING TAYLOR, M.D. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, March, 1888.

The balance between man's body and its environment is kept up chiefly by reflex action, little of which in health comes into consciousness. Vigorous life of the body requires vigorous reflexes, responsive to a wide range of external stimuli. They can remain so only while they receive such stimuli; centres deprived of their stimuli from disuse or any other cause decline in power, and the reactions over which they preside are as it were forgotten. One reflex cannot be at its best while others are ill developed; they are mutually affected. Even a reflex frog reacts less powerfully with one leg if the nerve of the other is severed. Many of our reflexes and the adjustments of the centres which control them are only partly

innate, and are gained by trial and frequent repetition, and if lost or weakened or deranged, are to be restored in the same way. The proper action of reflexes is interfered with if pain comes to accompany the use of any set of muscles. A man's leg is injured, it hurts him to walk as he used, consciousness interferes and he walks from his volitional instead of his reflex centres, till perhaps new adjustments of reflexes are formed. He has acquired a trick of walking which may long outlast the injury that caused it. To walk as he used, he must re-educate his reflexes. Some cripples have never had their reflexes brought into the best working condition. These propositions, which have a very wide application, Dr. Taylor illustrates from his own orthopedic practice, where their application is most direct. He gives thirteen cases where education or re-education of the deranged reflexes was attended with the greatest success, and several in which the cure must have seemed little less than miraculous. The process of education aims to give the unused centres the stimuli they need, and through them to bring about the reinvigoration of the whole. The means used are chiefly movements, passive and active (the first executed by steam power), and appropriate rest. What the author wishes "to emphasize as the central idea of this paper, is the development and use of the associated reflexes, as a practical means of modifying nerve-centre function."

*Les Odeurs du corps humain dans l'état de santé et dans l'état de maladie.*  
E. MONIN. Paris, 1886. 128 pp., 2d ed.

The subtitle of this little book (*Un nouveau chapitre de sémiologie*) gives its scope. The aim is, by gathering together the scattered observations on the subject, to rehabilitate a diagnostic help now unfortunately too little used. Odors are the evidences of subtle changes, and as such are of high value to the physician whose sense of smell is keen and educated enough to make use of them. Experiments noted in the last number but one of this journal show the extreme fineness of this sense—not to mention the marvellous discriminations of savages and certain deaf mutes. The author treats of the odors of the skin and its appendages, of the breath, of the sputa, of the vomits and eruptions, of the faeces and intestinal gases, of the urine, of the female genital organs (the odors of the male organs are less important and treated in other sections), and of purulence and gangrene. The description of these odors is, of course, obscured, as any treatment of the subject must be, by the lack of definite descriptive terms. Though the book was written for physicians, it contains matter of interest to the psychologist; the part that odors play in the sex-functions of plants and animals gives them, at the very least, an evolutionary interest. The book deals with clinical facts, and is as good in its way as the theories of Jäger are bad in theirs.

*Essai de Psychologie Générale.* CHARLES RICHET. Paris, 1887. 193 pp.  
F. Alcan.

In this little book the editor of the *Revue Scientifique* has aimed to present the general principles of psychology unobscured by detail and in systematic form. The style is lucid. Working from a physiological standpoint, he develops mind from irritability, one of the fundamental properties of living matter, through reflex action and instinct up to consciousness, memory and volition. The conclusion is an extension to men of the Cartesian mechanical theory of animals.